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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Rosen

DATE: January 7, 1969

1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963,
DALLAS, TEXAS

Purpose of memorandum is to recommend no Bureau personnel attend Clay Shaw trial in New Orleans as an observer.

New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison has set the trial date of Clay Shaw for conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy for 1/21/69. Orleans Parish Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty, Jr., will preside at trial and has told news media he will hold court sessions from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sundays.

This Bureau, of course, never investigated Clay Shaw nor did his name come up in the course of our investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. Garrison has not volunteered any information regarding his investigation to the FBI and has produced no credible evidence linking Clay Shaw to the assassination of President Kennedy.

Because of Garrison's irresponsible actions and constant attacks upon the Federal Government, including the President, Central Intelligence Agency, FBI, Warren Commission members and others, we have previously instructed all FBI personnel to have no contact with Garrison or any member of his staff. Similarly, we have instructed all offices to conduct no investigation based on Garrison's allegations without Bureau approval.

It is believed we should continue our policy of complete "hands off" of Garrison's fiasco. We do not believe it wise to have Bureau personnel sit in on the Clay Shaw trial as an observer in order to report developments to us. Such individual likely would be recognized by Garrison or someone else as an FBI employee and such situation used by Garrison in an attempt to involve or embarrass this Bureau.

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ACTION:

Attached is an airtel to New Orleans and Dallas instructing that no FBI personnel attend Clay Shaw trial as an observer. We are also instructing New Orleans to cover such trial through news media and established sources.

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REL:as
(7)
Enclosure

SOR SECTION